

Secretary

ST. IVES (HUNTS.)
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1961



LIST OF PARISHES IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA

Bluntisham	Hilton
Broughton	Holywell-cum-Needingworth
Bury	Houghton and Wyton
Colne	Oldhurst
Earith	Pidley-cum-Fenton
Fenstanton	Somersham
Hemingford Abbots	Warboys
Hemingford Grey	Wistow
Woodhurst	

Saint Ives Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

D. B. Wright, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.

Vice-Chairman:

D. B. Wright, Esq.

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Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

G. M. Clifford, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.I.Hsg.

K. Broom, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Administrative Assistant:

F. W. Palmer.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
SAINT IVES IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st December, 1961

To:— The Chairman and Members of the
 St. Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1961.

The District lends itself to recreational activities and each year is visited by increasing numbers of strangers from surrounding parts. These activities include boating, swimming and paddling in the river but unless the hazards of such recreations are fully understood the river can prove to be very dangerous indeed. The fatalities which happen annually give cause for much concern and every endeavour should be made to prevent them.

A pleasing feature to note this year is the rise of over 1000 in the population of the District but despite this fact the Birth Rate has dropped slightly as compared with 1960 yet still remains above the rate for England and Wales. The Death Rate on the other hand, remained practically unchanged for the District at a figure well below the National Average.

Approximately three times the number of Infectious Disease notifications were received this year as compared with 1960. The increase was almost entirely due to the incidence of measles, an outbreak of which began in October, 1960 in the Warboys area and spread to include many Parishes in the District.

The number of houses completed during the year was some-what reduced, but careful consideration was given to the provision of old people's dwellings. It is a pleasing feature to note that the Council decided to proceed with a scheme for 20 flatlets at Somersham in co-operation with the County Council in respect of the communal services to be provided.

During the year a contract for the Main Drainage Scheme for the riverside villages of Houghton, Wyton and the Hemingfords was approved by the Ministry and work was commenced on 1st November. This will greatly improve the amenities of these attractive villages. The need in other villages for similar schemes is increasing each year and it is hoped that this problem will be tackled with some urgency.

The re-grouping of water undertakings as encouraged by the Ministry will ultimately mean that both the supply and distribution of water will pass from the control of the Council. It should not, however, be forgotten that the demand in the District still exceeds the supply and the Council should remain aware of the necessity for further supplies.

In conclusion I should like to thank members of the Council for their kindness to me during the year, and all the Officers of the Council for their continued help and co-operation.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

J. CALDWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics.

Population (middle 1960) ...	...	...	15,340
Population (middle 1961) ...	...	...	16,370
Area ...	...	...	45,911
Rateable value ...	...	...	£174,967
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	£726
Number of inhabited houses ...	...	...	4,446

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	17.1
Legitimate	152	117	269	Comparability Factor	1.07
Illegitimate	5	6	11	Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	18.3
Total	157	123	280	(Ditto for England and Wales)	17.4
STILL BIRTHS				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births	20.9
Legitimate	4	2	6	(ditto for England and Wales)	18.7
Illegitimate	—	—	—	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	7.6
Total	4	2	6	Comparability Factor	1.16
DEATHS				Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	8.8
(all ages)	71	54	125	(Ditto for England and Wales)	12.0

The following table indicates the trends in the Birth and Death Rates for the District over the past 5 years and compares them with those for the County of Huntingdon and for England and Wales.

BIRTH RATE	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
St. Ives R.D.C. ..	17.5	17.4	18.5	19.9	18.3
County of Huntingdon	20.3	19.8	19.6	19.7	20.6
England and Wales ..	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4
DEATH RATE					
St. Ives R.D.C. ..	8.9	10.5	9.8	8.8	8.9
County of Huntingdon	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.6	10.1
England and Wales ..	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5	12.0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate ...	...	—	—	—
Total		2	1	3

Death Rates of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live Births ...	...	10.7
(Ditto for England and Wales) ...	...	21.4

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Cause	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	1	0
3	Syphilitic disease	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	0
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	3
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	6	8
18	Coronary disease, angina	15	7
19	Hypertension with heart disease	0	1
20	Other heart disease	10	12
21	Other circulatory disease	2	2
22	Influenza	0	1
23	Pneumonia	2	4
24	Bronchitis	5	1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	1	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3
33	Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
34	All other accidents	4	5
35	Suicide	0	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Total all causes ...		71	54

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1961 ... 37
Pulmonary ... 31 Non-Pulmonary ... 6

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	...	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

								Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	477
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
								496

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area.—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

(b) **Ambulance Service**

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

(c) **Home Nursing**

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases,

(i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys, Wistow and Broughton.

(ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Bluntisham, Earith, Somersham and Pidley.

(iii) A Nurse residing in Hemingford Grey (Tel.: St. Ives 2128) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.

(iv) A Nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.

(v) A Nurse residing in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2321) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station Approach, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto. Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Schoolroom, Somersham. Women's Institute Hall, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	Every Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon. 1.30-4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon Every Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.-12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives. Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesdays, 3-6.30 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males	Mondays, 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females and Children	Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 4.30-6.30 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10 a.m.- 12 noon (Surgeons by appointment) 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays in month 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services.

Fever. Cases of Infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. (1) **Water.**—The proposed re-grouping of the Water Undertakings supplying water in bulk to the Council finally materialised during the year.

In the first place the Nene and Ouse Board was constituted before the end of the year and came into operation on the 1st January, 1962, and the Council's responsibility being transferred on the 1st April, 1962.

This New Water Board is now responsible both for the supply and the distribution of water to the Parishes of Hemingford Grey, Hemingford Abbots and Houghton & Wyton. Ultimately the Nene and Ouse Board will join in the Diddington Reservoir Scheme as a result of the passing of the Great Ouse Water Act.

The remainder of the District is still supplied with water by the Ramsey and Saint Ives Joint Water Board and the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Water Board, but these Boards too will soon be defunct and the parishes concerned will be served by the Cambridge Water Company. As the Order confirming these proposals was not made by the Ministry in 1961, the final 'take over' will not take place until April, 1963. Meanwhile the usual restrictions on the use of water for non-domestic purposes were re-imposed in June and had not been removed at the end of the year. Further requests were also received from Saint Ives Borough Council for additional supplies, but unfortunately these requests had to be refused as neither Huntingdon Rural District Council nor the Chesterton and Saint Ives Joint Water Board were able to augment their supplies of water in bulk which could be passed on to the Borough.

Having regard to the fact that within a few years of the provision of main water schemes in the district neither the two Water Boards nor Huntingdon Rural District Council were able to provide an abundant water supply to the district in the summer months, it will be interesting to see whether the Ministry's policy of re-grouping will result in a marked improvement in the position in the future. It should, however, be borne in mind that the two Boards were actively engaged on schemes to augment their supplies and improve the pressure in the district, and the Cambridge Water Company will have the advantage of bringing such schemes to fruition. That the demand will continue to increase is certain.

Routine samples of water taken from various points in the district indicated that the purity of the water was satisfactory. 92 samples were taken by the Water Department during the year.

Samples were also taken from three private supplies in the district two of which were considered to be unsatisfactory and the occupiers of the premises were advised to boil all water used for drinking and domestic purposes.

1. (2) Drainage and Sewerage.—It is pleasing to report that the Main Drainage Scheme for Houghton & Wyton and the Hemingfords' was commenced in November, 1961.

The total cost of the Scheme including legal and loan costs, fees, expenses, etc., will amount to approximately £444,500.

The disposal works are sited at Hemingford Abbots, and the scheme includes the laying of over 11½ miles of pitch fibre and reinforced concrete sewers.

Owing to the high water table in the subsoil, and the naturally flat land in these riverside villages, the Council's Consulting Engineers have had to provide no less than 8 pumping stations on the line of sewer.

It is rather ironical to record that the Planning Authority has consistently refused to zone further land in the Hemingfords' for residential development while the area that can be developed in Houghton & Wyton is also restricted by the proposal to construct a bye-pass road to the north of the villages. It is to be hoped that further development will eventually be permitted when the scheme generally comes into operation. Meanwhile it will be a great boon to the existing householders and to the Department, as the cost of the frequent emptying of the former's septic tanks will disappear and the burden of the latter in disposing of the contents of these septic tanks will be lightened by about a million gallons a year.

Lastly, the old parish sewers will now resume their original function as surface waters carriers and the water-courses will resume their long lost clarity.

Some further progress was made with the main drainage scheme for Needingworth which had been held up by the difficulty in obtaining a site for the disposal works. These were finally resolved and after planning permission had been obtained, a suitable site was eventually purchased.

The County Council had requested the District Council to consider the inclusion of Holywell in the Needingworth Scheme and the Council's Consulting Engineers were accord-

ingly instructed to revise the original scheme. As a result of this revision it will be necessary to obtain a site for a pumping station in Holywell, before this scheme can proceed.

The arrangement between the Council and Bluntisham Internal Drainage Board whereby the sewage effluent from the village passed into the Board's Watercourses, continued during the year.

As increasing interest is being shown by private builders in residential development in Needingworth, it is considered essential that the main drainage scheme should proceed as soon as possible.

Much yet remains to be done, many large villages have yet to be sewered. The increasing cost of main drainage schemes has to be balanced with the other expenditure the Council must of necessity incur, but there can surely be no better investment for the district than the adequate sanitation essential to further the Council's progressive housing policy.

Finally the main drainage scheme at Somersham has operated satisfactorily as indeed have all the small disposal works built to deal with sewage from the Council's Housing Estates.

2. Rivers and Streams.—The River Ouse which passes through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Board. The extensive flood prevention schemes now being completed by the Board had a noticeable effect on the level of the river during the winter months and the normal flooding of the wash lands and meadows adjacent to the river was less frequent and not so prolonged.

The River Board has not yet approached the Council regarding the proposed flood protection scheme for Hemingford Grey and Hemingford Abbots. It is hoped that this scheme will not be too long delayed as it undoubtedly has a bearing on the attitude of the County Planning Authority towards the allocation of further land for development in these two villages. Furthermore, even slight flooding in these riverside villages in the future might result in the surcharging of the foul sewers now being laid which are not designed to cope with any volume of surface water. Such an event could be a serious Public Health hazard.

With the passing of the Great Ouse Water Act the abstraction of a large volume of water from the river which will ultimately be discharged to other watersheds will eventually take place. It is to be hoped that the amenities of the river which continues to attract an ever increasing number of visitors to the district will not be seriously affected by such abstractions.

Minor Watercourses.—Following the judgement of the Court of Appeal that the Council was responsible for the maintenance of Awarded Water Courses in Holywell-cum-Needingworth, the Council decided to undertake both an extensive and an intensive programme for the maintenance of similar awarded Water Courses in the remainder of the district.

By the end of the year considerable progress had been made and maintenance works on $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of both minor and major watercourses had been completed and work was in progress or tenders had been accepted for similar work on approximately another 13 miles.

In addition, routine cleansing of sewer ditches continued to be carried out as the need arose.

Saint Ives Borough Council have increased the volume of sewage effluent into Parsons Drove Brook and a new Poultry Packing Station situated in the Borough which uses up to 20,000 gallons of water per day is discharging a very concentrated effluent into the same brook. Both these effluents are unsatisfactory and have been subject to representations by the Great Ouse River Board.

Negotiations with the Borough Council and two Firms were in progress at the end of the year in an endeavour to solve this problem.

3. (1) Closet Conversions.—As in 1960, progress in the conversion of pail to water lavatories was more or less confined to houses which were improved either with a discretionary or a standard grant. Large scale conversions in the future will depend on the provision of main drainage schemes.

3. (2) Public Cleansing.

(a) Night-soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out over the whole of the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments.

Approximately 1,100 pails were emptied each week.

Great difficulty was experienced in the disposal of night-soil as very little agricultural land was available for surface disposal.

New straw compounds and beds were erected at Oldhurst Sewage Works which were used to their full capacity. Baled straw is provided by a local Farmer and the rotted straw is eventually distributed and ploughed in to the land.

The effluent from the compounds is passed through the Works for treatment, but as it is so highly concentrated great care has to be taken to ensure a satisfactory effluent.

The contracts made with Huntingdon Borough Council and Saint Ives Borough Council for the collection of night-soil in these two towns continued during the year. Two collections each week are carried out at Saint Ives and one collection each week at Huntingdon.

(b) Cesspool Emptying.

The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying and gully cleansing as are used for the night-soil service and the number of cesspools emptied during the year was 1,201 an increase of 99 over 1960.

It is anticipated that the number will drop sharply in 1963 when the houses in the riverside villages will be connected to the new sewers.

Here again the difficulty lies not in the collection but in the disposal of such vast quantities of sewage and sludge.

The straw compounds at Oldhurst were invaluable for this purpose.

A request was received from one Parish Council for the District Council to institute a free cesspool emptying service but the latter decided to continue with the existing charges which have remained unchanged since they were first fixed in 1950, namely, 25/- for each 750 gallon load and a sliding scale which reduces the charge for additional loads.

The service is made available to neighbouring Local Authorities and Government Departments for desludging sewage tanks and gully emptying whilst householders in adjacent districts are also served.

The charges in all these latter cases are however based on the actual cost incurred.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The weekly kerbside collection of house refuse throughout the district continued during the year and a satisfactory service was maintained. Three vehicles are used for the collection.

As a result of the continual increase in the volume of the refuse collected, the Council decided to replace the moving floor type of vehicle with a Karrier 'Blenheim' vehicle of 22 cubic yard capacity which is fitted with hydraulic rams to compress the refuse. The other two vehicles are of the 'dual tip' type each having a capacity of 15 cubic yards.

Each vehicle is normally manned by a driver and loader; an additional man was engaged during the year to assist in the loading of these vehicles when the daily schedule of work necessitates some assistance.

The refuse is tipped at two worked out gravel pits situated at Somersham and Hemingford Grey, where the refuse is first burnt and then spread and levelled with a bulldozer.

Periodic disinfestation to control rats is undertaken by the department and insecticides both in powder form and sprays are used to minimise nuisance from flies and crickets.

Following complaints from Somersham Parish Council that the tip was giving rise to a nuisance to some householders, the tips were visited by an Inspector from the Ministry in December, but his report on the condition of the tips was not received before the end of the year.

In addition to the normal house refuse collection, contract work for additional collections of house and trade refuse was undertaken at a Royal Air Force Station situated in the district.

By arrangement with Saint Ives Borough Council a weekly kerbside collection of both house and trade refuse is carried out in Saint Ives.

Litter Baskets.

As a result of the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1961, whereby Parish Councils are empowered to provide litter baskets, the Council decided to reconsider the position. It was eventually decided to inform Parish Councils that as they now had equal powers to provide them the District Council considered that the Parishes should themselves undertake to purchase any they thought necessary, but all litter bins would be emptied on the usual refuse collection day in each village.

3. (3) Sanitary Inspections of the Area.

(a) Housing Inspections:—

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	279
Re-inspections	...	...	42
Number of Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	45
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	39
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	—

It was not found necessary to issue any Statutory Notices in respect of these inspections except in relation to those houses which are being dealt with under the Council's Slum Clearance Programme; the majority of the defects found being remedied after an informal approach to the owner concerned.

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937:—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	13	10	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7	44	29	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	57	39	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:—				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Referred Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—

No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of Factories in the district and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) Inspections under Regulations, etc.

Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	157
Dumps, tips	...	...	...	...	...	98
Scavenging ...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	11
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	75
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	30
Pumps, Wells	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	139
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	265
Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	175
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	199
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	4
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	0
Meat from outside District	...	...	...	...	...	39
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	22
After Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	6
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	86
Food Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	136
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	132
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	168
Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	12
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	150
Total						2,009

As a result of the inspections recorded above, several informal notices were served on owners and occupiers of the premises concerned requesting them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations

The infringements found were of a minor character and were rectified after a request to do so had been made by the Department.

For the third consecutive year no inspections were made as the result of infectious diseases but new difficulties in connection with Public Health continually arise. One of these is the siting of Broiler Houses in residential districts which pose new problems, some of which cannot easily be solved.

3. (4) Caravan Sites.

The total number of sites licensed in the district is 21.

Of these only 2 sites contain more than 10 caravans while 13 of the sites are only licensed for one caravan.

Some difficulty was experienced at one unauthorised site in Oldhurst, but eventually complete clearance was achieved.

Several itinerant van dwellers station their vans in the district, the majority of whom are employed in casual agricultural and horticultural work.

Co-operation with the County Council as the Planning Authority was maintained during the year.

3. (5) Swimming Baths.

The Council and the Saint Ives Borough Council continued their discussions and negotiations on the provision of a Swimming Pool in Saint Ives and the Joint Committee consisting of members of the two Authorities held further meetings during the year.

Several sites were inspected and eventually it was decided to purchase approximately three acres of land owned by Saint Ives Golf Club subject to Planning Permission being obtained to develop the site.

Formal notice of the planning application was published in the local press. Objections to the proposal were received from the Golf Club and local residents and subsequently the Minister decided that a Public Inquiry should be held to hear these objections.

As a result of this Inquiry the Minister decided that the site was unsuitable.

A small canvas pool has been provided at one County Primary School in the district and the Department was requested to give advice and take samples of the water to check the effectiveness of the chlorination. At first results varied, but satisfactory conditions were soon obtained and maintained.

3. (6) Rodent Control.

The existing arrangements made by the Council whereby the Foreman of the Public Cleansing Staff deals with minor infestations continued during the year.

It became apparant during the autumn that in common with other areas in the Eastern Counties the number of rats had increased and although few complaints were received from householders considerable damage was being sustained by the agricultural industry.

The Council considered the position and decided to issue "Warfarin" to householders free of charge and to carry out block disinfestation at Earith with the assistance of an operator loaned by Ramsey Urban District Council.

Regular disinfestation of the Council's refuse tips were also carried out; "Warfarin" and phosphides were found to be most effective.

HOUSING

(a) Slum Clearance.

The Council's programme submitted to the Ministry in October, 1955 estimated that there were 326 houses in the district which could be dealt with under the Slum Clearance provisions of the Housing Acts, and the following tables show the progress made up to the end of 1961.

Number of houses represented as Unfit:-			
(a) Clearance Areas	...	...	30
(b) Individual Unfit houses	...		209
Number dealt with by informal action	...		5
Number of houses included in Clearance Order			30
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	94
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	3
Number of houses demolished as result of informal action	...	...	10
Number of Undertakings accepted	...	...	105
Number of houses closed as a result of informal action	...	...	2
			244
			244
Number of Houses demolished:-			
(a) In Clearance Areas	...	...	30
(b) By Demolition Orders	...	...	62
(c) By Informal Action	...	...	10
(d) As a result of Undertakings	...		9
Number of Undertakings cancelled	...	...	23
Number of Demolition Orders cancelled	...		8

Since 1955, when the original programme was submitted to the Ministry, a number of houses considered to be unfit for habitation have been reconditioned by the owners, who have taken advantage of the Council's progressive approach to the Improvement Grants Scheme.

In addition several cottages on outlying farms also considered to be unfit for habitation have been converted into

agricultural stores. Consequently the number of unfit houses in the district remaining in the original programme is considerably less than 50, but over the past 6 years some cottages considered to be 'border line' cases in 1955 have deteriorated still further and will now be dealt with under the Slum Clearance provisions of the Housing Acts.

(b) General.

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of both council and privately owned houses since 1946:-

						Council houses completed	Private houses completed
1946	...	...	...	...	...	18	10
1947	...	...	...	...	...	47	29
1948	...	...	...	...	...	50	19
1949	...	...	...	...	...	47	15
1950	...	...	...	...	...	47	21
1951	...	...	...	...	...	25	8
1952	...	...	...	...	...	56	2
1953	...	...	...	...	...	50	23
1954	...	...	...	...	...	74	23
1955	...	...	...	...	...	63	17
1956	...	...	...	...	...	15	36
1957	...	...	...	...	...	25	43
1958	...	...	...	...	...	21	41
1959	...	...	...	...	...	29	76
1960	...	...	...	...	...	19	62
1961	...	...	...	...	...	26	43
						612	468

The total number of inhabited houses in the area at the end of 1961 was 4,446 the growth of the district since the end of the war is clearly indicated by the fact that in 1945 the number of houses was then 3,120.

Demand for sites for residential development in the Hemingfords is still increasing, but as the land zoned for such development is very limited there is an increasing trend to develop in other villages.

The Report of the County Planning Committee on Rural Policy was received by the Council in December, from which it appeared that with few exceptions little expansion was envisaged in the district in the next five years; the Council's observations on these proposals were not submitted until 1962.

Further careful consideration was given to the provision of a block of Flatlets for Old People together with communal facilities and Warden's Flat, and the Council decided to proceed with the scheme provided that the County Council as the Welfare Authority was prepared to make a reasonable contribution towards the cost of providing the Warden's Flat and the communal services.

The total number of council houses and bungalows at the end of the year was 1,030. All are subject to the differential rent scheme and are maintained by a Direct Labour Force consisting of a foreman and 8 men.

Improvement Grants.

The number of applications for Improvement Grants remained fairly steady during the past three years, i.e. 35 in 1959, 32 in 1960, and 37 in 1961.

During the year Standard Grants amounting to £1,021 were made in respect of 9 houses, an average of £113 per house; Discretionary Grants amounting to £7,787 were made in respect of 28 houses, an average of £278 per house.

Since the implementation of the Improvement Grants Scheme by the Council, Grants to the total value of £48,802 have been made to owners in respect of 238 houses, an average of £205 per house.

The Improvement Works to the pre-war council houses were commenced in 1961 but none were completed before the end of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

A large proportion of the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms both of whom operate high temperature short time Pasteurisation plants.

The Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1960, transferred the duties of the Council in respect of the issue of Dealers and Supplementary Licences to the County Council.

Although the Council still has adequate powers to inspect all premises, including dairies, where food is prepared for human consumption practically all the specific regulations formerly administered by the Council have now been transferred to other bodies.

As nothing can be more annoying to producers, dealers and retailers, or indeed anyone, to have two or more officers from different authorities calling to inspect their premises perhaps within hours of each other, no routine inspections of such premises were made during the year and it is not intended to do so in the future unless some unusual circumstances should make it essential so to do.

(b) Ice Cream.

There are no licensed manufacturers in the district: all the Ice Cream sold consists of pre-packed brands manufactured and distributed by well-known firms.

There are 57 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

(c) Meat and Other Foods.

The remaining slaughterhouses in the district were closed on 1st January, 1961. Very occasionally casualty animals are slaughtered in the district but excluding these emergency cases all the meat sold is imported from adjoining areas, butchers either buying direct from wholesalers or from the local fat-stock markets and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

Routine examination of meat and other foods was carried out during the year and small quantities of tinned meat, fish, fruit, etc., were condemned.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

The food premises in the district have been classified as follows:-

Bakers	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	9
Café's and Canteens	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	5
General Stores	...	...	...	...	54
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	34

The shops are generally small and are of the 'Family Business' type, very few shop assistants being employed:

The occupiers have in the main continued to improve their standard of cleanliness and hygiene.

No proceedings were instituted during the year for offences against the Regulations, but the attention of some occupiers was drawn to minor infringements which were subsequently rectified.

Adulteration.

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food & Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.

